

## Agenda Item #8

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
BUREAU OF LANDS, CULTURAL, AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF NATURE PRESERVES  
APRIL 2003 MEETING

Explanation and recommendation of item on agenda (informational item):

Consideration of the establishment of a Natural Heritage Annual Data License fee.

The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center housed in the Division of Nature Preserves, tracks information on Indiana's rarest plants, animals, and natural areas. It is continuously updated and is the most comprehensive source for such data in the State. This information is used by a variety of governmental and commercial customers, who use it in a variety of ways. Examples include: USFWS—project reviews for potential impacts to endangered species; NRCS—scoring Farm Program assistance applications; INDOT—highway right of way planning; utilities—utility right of way placement; environmental consultants—assistance to clients for development projects. The Division wishes to implement a fee for filling routine, site specific requests from the Natural Heritage Data Center.

Some of those who need and use the data are customers, like those listed in the examples above, who require access to all, or a large portion of the data set, usually for large-scale projects or that require a statewide perspective. The Division is looking into a fee structure for a product that would be appropriate for these types of users, enabling both users and the Division to save time. Fees charged would ideally be in line with those charged by other states, and enable IDNR to recover some of the costs for developing the data and for providing this information.